

# FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the Coastal Management Fellows

Issue Twenty

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## **FOCUS ON FELLOWS: RUBY PAP 2002-2004**

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Growing up, fellow Ruby Pap and her family moved around a fair bit, mostly to different small towns in New England. One reason for their town-hopping was her mom's passion for "buying and fixing up" old houses. As a result of her family's many moves, Ruby attended several elementary schools around New Hampshire, and high school in Peterborough, New Hampshire. She also spent one year as an exchange student in Australia, where she developed a passion for travel and experiencing different cultures.

Living in a rural area such as New Hampshire has given Ruby a deep appreciation for nature. For most of her life she has enjoyed camping, hiking, and other outdoor recreation activities. In high school, Ruby's extracurricular activities included the standard fare, including field hockey and tennis, but they also included going to music concerts, such as those of the group Phish, where she and her friends would camp out.

While visiting an aunt in Denver, Colorado towards the end of high school, Ruby discovered that she "really liked the West" and decided to enroll at the University of



Fellow Ruby Pap collecting a water sample in San Francisco Bay.

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Denver for college. She began her undergraduate career in the school of business but after taking classes "in several different topics," she developed an interest in environmental science and anthropology.

Classes in these subjects gave her the opportunity to participate in several "amazing" field trips ranging from the Rocky Mountains to a Zuni reservation in New Mexico. She also enrolled in a semester-long island management course in the Republic of Palau which sparked her interest in tropical environments and island coastal zone management. Ruby graduated from the University of Denver with a bachelor of arts in environmental science.

After graduation, Ruby worked in the private sector,

first as an industrial hygienist at an environmental consulting firm and then as a geographic information system technician at a digital mapping firm. Realizing that she wanted to contribute to the environmental field by "influencing and making policy decisions," she took a seasonal position as a park office manager in Eldorado Canyon Park in Boulder, Colorado.

It was this experience that allowed her to get closer to the environmental decision-making process in a way that she felt was "meaningful." The experience also influenced her to apply to graduate school. She realized that pursuing a master's degree would allow her to gain additional knowledge and to find gainful

employment in the policy arena.

Before attending graduate school, Ruby lived with her mom in Jamaica for six months and volunteered at a local community center where she taught reading and math. Ruby's time in Jamaica opened her up to a new world perspective, and she became very interested in international development issues, human rights, and international relations.

Building from her experience in Jamaica and her interest in international development, Ruby chose to do her graduate studies at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment and to conduct her thesis on institutional and household perspectives on solid waste management in Jamaica. There were many components to this research including a stakeholder analysis, informal interviews, and a policy analysis.

While completing her master of science in resource policy and behavior, Ruby learned about the Coastal Management Fellowship program through an announcement that Michigan's Sea Grant sent to her department. She decided to apply and was particularly drawn to the project in San Francisco. It involved working with a variety of stakeholders and agencies, which she had experience in and enjoyed during her thesis work. She also thought the project would offer a new level of experience in project coordination.

At the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development

Commission (BCDC), Ruby is working collaboratively on a pilot San Francisco Bay marina water quality study with marinas and recreational boating organizations, federal, state, and local environmental agencies and environmental nongovernment organizations (NGOs) to better understand water quality conditions at San Francisco Bay marinas.

At the beginning of her project, Ruby went through a period of learning by conducting "extensive literature reviews about marinas, water quality issues, and nonpoint source pollution" and by forming and working closely with a technical advisory committee (TAC).

The TAC has provided input on conceptual study designs for the project. It has also been instrumental in helping Ruby craft a scientifically defensible study with a small budget, design sediment sampling methodologies, and select appropriate marinas to study.

Ruby continues to see rapid progress in the project, due in large part to the periodic meetings she has with her stakeholder committee, the San Francisco Bay Marinas and Recreational Boating Nonpoint Source Task Force, and the TAC. These meetings allow her to gather the necessary information to make decisions and move forward. The fellowship experience has taught her that by "reaching out, asking questions, and learning from other people's experiences," you can "involve the right people in your project."

In the current stage of her project, Ruby is conducting site characterizations and sediment sampling at four marinas in San Francisco Bay. By talking to a variety of people, Ruby met a reputable scientist with Moss Landing Marine Laboratories' Marine Pollution Studies Lab, whom she hired as a consultant for the pilot study to conduct the sampling, analysis, and reporting.

In August of 2003, Ruby worked with Moss Landing to collect approximately ten sediment samples from each of the four marinas selected for the study. These samples were collected along transects that were laid from the innermost harbor to the mouth of each marina. All forty samples are now being analyzed in the Moss Landing Laboratories for heavy metals and petroleum hydrocarbons.

While waiting for the lab results, Ruby is writing a background report on the study. She is also advising a local NGO that is conducting a parallel marina pathogen study. Once Ruby incorporates the study results and recommendations into her final report, she will present it to her stakeholder committee and the BCDC's 26-member commission.

After the fellowship, Ruby is looking at a wide range of career possibilities, including positions in international sustainable development and international coastal zone management, as long as it has a "human rights slant." She is particularly interested in Latin American development issues, and is currently taking a

Spanish course in anticipation of a long-awaited trip. ♦

For more information about BCDC's water monitoring project, e-mail Ruby at [rubyp@bcdca.gov](mailto:rubyp@bcdca.gov).

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## **FOCUS ON THE FELLOWSHIP: 2004 STATE PROJECTS**

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Four exciting new projects have been selected for the 2004 to 2006 Coastal Management Fellowship. The Maine Coastal Program and the New York Division of Coastal Resources, whose projects were selected last year but deferred, will also be eligible for fellow placement this year.

Below is a summary of each of the six projects for the upcoming year. Recruiting efforts are well under way, but we need your help to spread the word to eligible applicants. Remember, applications should be submitted to area Sea Grant directors and are due no later than February 2, 2004.

### **Maine Coastal Program; West Boothbay Harbor, Maine**

**Project Goal:** Create a regional marine geographic information system (GIS) and bay-area management approach for the State of Maine.

**Fellow Responsibilities:**

1) Develop a prototype regional marine GIS using existing data, 2) make recommendations and create a plan for the acquisition of new data layers, 3) apply analysis of a regional GIS to

inform a series of real-life management issues, and 4) investigate, evaluate, and make recommendations for managing the bay area.

### **Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management; Boston, Massachusetts**

**Project Goal:** Build on the initial rapid-response planning efforts that will assist states in the Northeast region in developing and implementing early detection and eradication protocols for aquatic invaders.

**Fellow Responsibilities:**

1) Establish a bioinvasion reporting and verification network for the region, 2) develop an advisory list of rapid response trigger species for the region, 3) develop specific rapid response plans for representative species likely to be introduced to the region, and 4) communicate project products to relevant natural resource managers in the Northeast.

### **New Hampshire Coastal Program; Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

**Project Goal:** Develop geographic information system (GIS) implementation tools, a dissemination strategy, and products to help local communities learn about coastal groundwater sustainability in New Hampshire.

**Fellow Responsibilities:**

1) Conduct a systematic assessment of community concerns about groundwater sustainability, 2) analyze compatibility of new databases and develop GIS tools, 3) prepare educational materials for communities, and

4) coordinate activities with the advisory committee and other project activities.

### **New Jersey Coastal Management Program; Trenton, New Jersey**

**Project Goal:** Enhance the program's broader public access initiative by continued development of a tracking program for public access conditions in coastal permits, inspection of those access sites, and development of a public access geographic information system database and map.

**Fellow Responsibilities:**

1) Coordinate with agencies, programs, and interested parties to collect and develop educational materials on the public trust doctrine for dissemination, 2) prepare a public access policy guide, and 3) work with coastal managers to draft rule changes regarding public access to the coast.

### **New York Division of Coastal Resources; Albany, New York**

**Project Goal:** Implement New York's coastal zone management policies and its nonpoint source management program with regard to the restoration of water quality and habitat values and the protection of water quality in coastal streams.

**Fellow Responsibilities:**

1) Develop a document that establishes a statewide protocol for water quality restoration and provides guidance to restoration practitioners, local government officials, and agency staff, 2) establish a framework for a geographic information system-linked database of riparian restoration projects that will

serve as a reference for all restoration stakeholders statewide, and 3) participate in riparian restoration work groups.

**Oregon Ocean Coastal Management Program; Salem, Oregon**

**Project Goal:** Provide information and planning

assessments necessary for enhancing management of Oregon's rocky shore resources and uses.

**Fellow Responsibilities:**

1) Conduct an interagency assessment and planning process for rocky shore management, 2) provide information and

recommendations on rocky shores to support Oregon Parks and Recreation Department planning, and 3) fill information gaps on rocky shores in the Oregon Coastal Atlas. ♦

To read more about the 2004 state projects, visit the fellowship Web site at [www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/).

## Upcoming Conferences & Events

### **JANUARY**

**22–24: 3rd Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference**

Location: Portland, Oregon

[www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/SmartGrowth/](http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/SmartGrowth/)

### **MARCH**

**1–5: Aquaculture 2004**

Location: Honolulu, Hawaii

[www.was.org/main/FrameMain.asp](http://www.was.org/main/FrameMain.asp)

**9–11: Annual Ocean and Coastal Program Managers' Meeting**

Location: Washington, DC

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/pmm/>

**10–12: 5th Biennial Texas Coastal Issues Conference**

Location: Corpus Christi, Texas

[www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cic2004/index.html](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cic2004/index.html)

**21–27: White Water to Blue Water Partnership Conference**

Location: Miami, Florida

[www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/](http://www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw/)

**29–31: Sustainable Beaches Summit**

Location: Sandestin, Florida

[www.cleanbeaches.org/sustainable/default.cfm](http://www.cleanbeaches.org/sustainable/default.cfm)

For more information on upcoming events, please visit  
[www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html)

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**FOCUS ON THE  
CENTER:  
IMPROVING DECISION  
MAKING BY MAKING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
INFORMATION READILY  
AVAILABLE**

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As all coastal resource managers know, having ready access to pertinent information is an important part of the job.

Coastal managers in Rhode Island put this idea to work as they developed a Web site that provides exhaustive information about their state's habitat restoration efforts.

The Rhode Island Habitat Restoration Portal includes habitat descriptions, maps, spatial data, permitting and funding information, and tools for evaluating and prioritizing current and proposed restoration projects.

Three decision-support tools for siting habitat restoration projects are included. Each tool uses a geographic information system (GIS) and socioeconomic and ecological data to identify and prioritize restoration opportunities based on user-selected criteria. The tools focus on anadromous fish run habitats, seagrass habitats, and salt marshes.

This effort is a critical component of the state's restoration planning and project prioritization efforts. You can view the site at [www.edc.uri.edu/restoration/](http://www.edc.uri.edu/restoration/).

The NOAA Coastal Services Center participated in development of this project. To explore ways in which the Center might help your program with a similar effort, please contact Pace Wilber at [Pace.Wilber@noaa.gov](mailto:Pace.Wilber@noaa.gov).



**NOAA Coastal Services Center**  
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

**Upcoming Training\***

\*Training classes are limited to project partners and NOAA line offices.

**January 2004**

- 12–13: Introduction to ArcGIS I in Charleston, South Carolina
- 13–15: Public Issues and Conflict Management (PICM) in San Diego, California
- 14–16: Coastal Applications Using ArcGIS 8.3 in Charleston, South Carolina
- 19–22: Public Issues and Conflict Management (PICM) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire

**February 2004**

- 23–24: Introduction to ArcGIS I in Charleston, South Carolina
- 25–27: Coastal Applications Using ArcGIS 8.3 in Charleston, South Carolina

**March 2004**

- 22–23: Introduction to ArcGIS I in Charleston, South Carolina
- 22–24: Public Issues and Conflict Management (PICM) in Mississippi
- 24–26: Coastal Applications Using ArcGIS 8.3 in Charleston, South Carolina

For more information, point your browser to [www.csc.noaa.gov/training/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/training/).



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